

## AMERICAN MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

Vol. IV.

June 15, 1840.

No. 6.

## ART. I.—REPORT OF THE MINORITY OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, ON THOMSONIANISM.

*(Concluded from page 75.)*

Another of the leading principles of this class of physicians is, that the human body is composed of four elements, earth, air, fire and water. Now, as this class of physicians never dissect a human body, and are not chemists, how can they inform us of its component parts? If we wish to ascertain the component parts of any material thing, we submit it to the chemist; we analyze it, resolve it into its elementary principles. This theory was not arrived at in any such way; but to use the words of the founder of this system, he arrived at it by the "mature consideration."

Methinks, that if the qualities of a newly discovered ore were to be ascertained, its elements discovered and its value made known, the process would be something besides consideration. Were consideration the test of component parts and value, there would probably be as many opinions as men.

In this very instance, unfortunately for the theory, and the "mature consideration" on which it is founded, the very things called elements are falsely so called; earth, air, fire, or water, are not elements. The heat produced by combustion, may perhaps be denominated an element, but who does not know that earth, air, and water are compounds? who is it that presumes to speak of elements and of compounds, unless a chemist himself, or adopting the opinions of chemists.

It will not be denied, that it is the duty of government to protect, by laws aptly fitted to the case, the people against the impositions which any trade, craft, occupation or profession may practise upon them. Custom or statute, or both, have established certain rates or toll for the miller. We test, by certain standards, the weights and measures which are in use; we establish the weight of a given measure of grain; we exact a license from the pedlar, auctioneer, and dealer in liquors; we establish an inspection over the productions of the butcher, the fisherman, the tanner, the lumberman, and the miller, to protect community against imposition, interposing the skill of the inspector as a shield for the ignorant. This we do in the arts.

In the sciences we have laws for the protection of the people against pettifoggery. In the ecclesiastical world, the state, out of regard for perfect religious freedom and perfect toleration in all matters of faith, abstains from intermeddling; but even here, the different societies of Christians, one and all, have their laws, as certain and as effectual too, as to the moral and literary qualifications of their spiritual guides. In medicine, too, the law has prescribed the moral character, the term of study, the examination and the age of the practitioner.

Are all these laws founded in folly? Are they deserving of being stigma-

tized as monopolies; as interfering tyrannically and unnecessarily with common rights and constitutional privileges?

In whose behalf is it that we are called on to deviate from a course practised and sanctioned by the wisdom of ages? Who are they, who talk so much of inherent rights and constitutional privileges, and of monopoly, and of the ignorance and unskilfulness of others? They are men who claim to practise under a *patent*, who have the exclusive right to compound, vend and administer certain medicines; their existence is predicated on monopoly and exclusive chartered privileges.

Who are they who stigmatize others with the mystery thrown around their science; of their learned technical terms; terms known and understood alone by the medical world; and from their uniformity, affording a wonderful facility for the dissemination of learning, terms, of necessity, learned but always descriptive, and founded on a common language? Terms which any man may learn and understand, if he will just take the trouble to open the dictionary, and no patent lock interposed. They are men who practise under a patent, granting exclusive privileges; and who give the names of No. 1 and 2, as words to their medicines. Are numbers, digits, Arabic figures, more descriptive of the nature, power and properties of medicines, than the most abstruse word used in *materia medica*?

"Physician heal thyself," was never more appropriately applied, than in this case. Render simple and plain your own vocabulary; call your medicines by plain English names, and then criticise, ad libitum, the mystery or pedantry of others.

The committee, with the view of discovering whether there was any thing real in the objection to the use of mineral medicines; whether the principle laid down by this class of physicians, that all metals and minerals, in their state of purity, and all compounds of them, whether natural or artificial, were poisonous, took some pains to ascertain into what substances metals and minerals entered and formed an essential component part, and found that there was scarcely an article of food or medicine but was composed in part of a metal or mineral. That the healthiest human being is composed, in part, of metallic and mineral substances. The colour of the blood is occasioned by a compound of iron it contains; the bones are a mineral substance, and these component parts are as necessary as any other which enter into the system.

Salt itself, so necessary to the enjoyment of life and the promotion of health, is a mineral, and has for its base a metal; one of these *poisonous* metals. The body of man being composed in part of both metals and minerals, it would seem that a constant supply of these materials in some form was necessary to the developement, and sustenance, and health of the animal system. The committee cannot come to the conclusion that metals or minerals, or their compounds are, as a general rule, poisonous: on the contrary, that both in sickness and in health, they are necessary to our existence.

The fancy, that because the metallic and mineral kingdom is in the ground, and the dead body of a man is deposited in the ground, and that the former has an affinity for the latter, and therefore has a tendency to drag down the body to the grave, is hardly worthy of comment. Water lies as deep in the ground as the metal; its tendency is as essentially downwards. Rum has no such downward tendency. Rum does not exist in the ground; the tendency of rum is upwards. If the theory were correct, the conclusion would seem to follow that water is poisonous and rum is healthy.

This class of physicians use roots, and their tendency is downwards. The committee have also taken some pains to examine the vegetables which this class of physicians use, and behold, there is not one but is composed, in part, both of metals and minerals. This is true of the whole animal and vegetable kingdom. Out of a great number of analytical experi-

ments performed by Sir Humphrey Davy, the committee take leave to select the following: 100 parts [of the ashes] of wheat flour contain 43 parts of soluble salts, 13 of phosphates and carbonates,  $\frac{1}{2}$  a part of metal, 32 parts of silica; so that [the ashes of] the material out of which our daily bread, the "staff of life" is made, is composed .98 $\frac{1}{2}$  of these poisonous metals and minerals which have such a tendency to drag down men to the grave.

The [ashes of] Indian corn, the native grain, and of which above all others, the American is proud, and of which the poet Barlow said, that half the bones of New-England's sons are made, is composed of .78 of metallic and mineral substances.

It would be a waste of time, to show the component parts of different vegetables. It is sufficient to say, that there is not a single vegetable in the world of plants which is not composed, in part, of metallic and mineral substances. Even the red pepper, which is the great stimulant used by this order of physicians, is found on analysis, to contain ten per cent. of metallic matter. The *lobelia inflata* is not more fortunate. This plant, vulgarly called Indian tobacco, and which occupies so high a rank in the materia medica of this class of physics, is thus described by Barton. It will be borne in mind, that Barton's Medical Botany is one of the few books which this class of physicians claim that it is useful to read. "*Lobelia inflata*," says Barton, "is decidedly one of the most active of our native vegetables. It might, perhaps, be said with truth, that the United States does not yield a plant of more powerful and unequivocal operation on the human system; and since poisons are, generally, under judicious use, good medicines, the Indian tobacco seems to have an undoubted claim to a place in the materia medica; it is possessed of an emetic, sudorific and powerful expectorant effect. Not only horses and cattle have been supposed to be killed by eating it, but a remarkable instance of its deleterious effects on the human system is related in the report of a trial for murder, of a notorious empiric, in Massachusetts, who caused lobelia to be used to a pernicious extent as a nostrum. This daring and ignorant man (Samuel Thomson, by name,) is said to have usually prescribed it, and frequently with impunity, in the dose of a common teaspoonful of the powdered seeds or leaves, and often repeated. If the medicine does not puke or evacuate powerfully, it frequently destroys the patient, and sometimes in five or six hours."

How this author, who calls lobelia a poison, and the founder of this system of medicine a notorious empiric, and a daring and ignorant quack, should have found favour with his son, the president of the N. Y. S. M. T. B. S. who has so high a regard for his father as to think his equal is not to be found amongst 10,000,000 of men, seems inconsistent with a knowledge of the author. The committee have come to the conclusion that Barton's Medical Botany might, perhaps, have been read, as bills are in this house, by its title only.

The committee, with the view of showing that the sciences of anatomy, physiology, and chemistry, were useful to be studied by the practitioner of medicine, take leave to express an opinion, that disease consists in a change, either of structure or function, in the human system, and that the object of the physician is to bring the system back to its original healthy condition. Now anatomy teaches that the body consists of a great variety of tissues, and that the progress of disease in each is different. This is proved by an examination and comparison of symptoms, and it is the union of a certain number of symptoms which constitutes a particular disease.

It has been ascertained by long practice and experience, that certain medicines or remedies have removed such disease. If such medicines occasionally prove ineffectual, an examination of the dead body will show that such disease had advanced too far before the application of the remedy to be arrested by it.

A moment's reflection will satisfy all that the progress of medical knowledge, the science of treating disease with skill, must, of necessity, be slow,

and owing to the complex nature of the human body, to a certain extent, imperfect.

But if any truth has been established by the experience of ages, it would seem to be this, that there is a variety of disease, and that it cannot be successfully treated by a single class of medicines. A necessary inference from this is, that the physician needs all the light which can be derived from the study of the human system, when in a state of health. Taking this view of the subject, the committee come to the conclusion that an intimate knowledge of anatomy and physiology is absolutely necessary to the physician.

Chemistry teaches the nature and properties of all material bodies; of course of the nature of all medicines. Can it be doubted then that this science which teaches the nature, and the power of medicine is useful and necessary to a physician. As well might the mechanic doubt the utility of understanding the power and use of the tools of his trade, as the physician doubt the necessity of knowing the component parts, the nature and strength of the medicines he uses.

Had this class of physicians been chemists, they would not have levelled their sweeping denunciation on all metals and minerals, and compounds thereof, for that science would have taught them that every medicine which is prescribed by them contains both these substances.

One of the greatest discoveries which crowned the labour and research and learning of the medical world, is the discovery of the theory of the circulation of the blood, by Harvey. This great man, after going through the preparatory studies at the grammar school, studied five years in the University of Cambridge. As a traveller he performed the tour of Europe, and desirous of accomplishing himself as a physician, he pursued his studies some years in the medical school of Padua, then one of the most celebrated in Europe, and there he took his degree as Doctor of Medicine, in 1602. He afterwards became a fellow of the College of Physicians in London, and a professor of anatomy and surgery in that college, and in 1616 first disclosed his great discovery of the theory of the circulation of the blood. Harvey was at that time 38 years of age, and his whole life had been devoted to the cause of science, and the greater part of it to that particular science in which his great discovery was made.

Jenner, that great benefactor of mankind, who disarmed a disease more deadly than the plague of all its terrors, was the son of an English clergyman, received a most excellent classical education, and studied medicine the usual length of time with a country practitioner; not content with the education thus obtained, better probably than that usually allowed, he went to London to attend the hospitals there, and became a private pupil for two years of the celebrated John Hunter, a name dear to every medical student. He cultivated natural history with great ardour and success, and was, in the opinion of Hunter, the first scholar in Europe in the science of human and comparative anatomy.

The tendency of this last science was the discovery, which immortalized his name, and which has saved, and which will continue to save, to youth its beauty, and has prolonged, and will continue to prolong the lives of millions. This great discovery engaged the attention of Jenner for more than twenty years; and an acquaintance with his experiments would convince all that the occasional failure of vaccination was owing to a neglect of the rules which he prescribed.

The names and short biographical sketches of these great men are introduced merely to authorize the inquiry, whether these discoveries ever would have been made, by and with the aid of such an education as the Thomzonian physicians think is all sufficient. Science is always progressive, and it requires very little of the virtue of humility to say and believe that it is yet in its infancy. Sir Isaac Newton, the great, the intellectual, the almost pure intelligence, the connecting link between men and angels, if such a



thought may be indulged, said, when speaking of his great learning, his wonderful discoveries, that he considered himself but a child, amusing himself by picking up shells on the shore of the great ocean of science.

This is a world of humbugs; and with all our keen-sightedness, adroitness, skill and ingenuity in all we undertake, we are, perhaps, the most easily humbugged of any nation in the world, and in nothing is this alacrity to be deceived more fully manifested than in the eternal, never ending, still beginning, doctoring still and still destroying patent medicines: perhaps one-fourth of the advertising patronage of a country newspaper consists in puffing patent medicines, and this great tariff is levied on credulity afflicted with disease. If there were truth in the advertisements of a single paper, attested to by the learned, the wise and the pious, there is not a disease to which poor humanity is heir, but what is susceptible of speedy relief and ultimate cure. It is the duty of a wise government to study the character and propensities of the people for whom it makes laws; and if it is forced so to shape the law as to correct fallacy and vice. Whether the legislature of this state, when it gave to a German quack \$1,000 to disclose a pretended specific for the bite of a mad dog, was guided by that wisdom which checks imprudence, restrains credulity in its race of folly; or whether it gave countenance to our innate gullibility and love of the marvellous, the committee do not pretend to decide. One of the prominent weaknesses of man is the love of the marvellous. When, superadded to this, the fear of death operates upon a mind, enfeebled by disease, and upon the minds of friends full of apprehension and anxiety, we are apt to repose confidence in worthless objects; and to use the most ridiculous and hazardous means which ignorance may prescribe or impudence administer. The Leyden phial, the touch of the king or the seventh daughter for scrofula, the patent tractors, the philosopher's stone and animal magnetism, have each in their turn occupied the attention and preyed upon the powers and credulity of mankind; and one folly seems to give way only to make room for another; and the committee are of opinion that no legislation should be indulged, which is calculated to encourage the love of the marvellous, to encourage credulity, or to countenance those who practise upon these infirmities in our nature.

The committee are of opinion that the very foundation of all this theory which is sought to be upheld by law, is founded in ignorance and error; and that it would only set at nought most of those lights which are necessary to guide the physician in the intricate path which he is obliged to travel.

That to say that a man ignorant of anatomy, of physiology, of pathology, of chemistry, of materia medica, may be safely trusted to administer to the human system, which is so fearfully and wonderfully made, would be saying more than to say, that he who never saw the inside of a watch, was fit to repair the most valuable timepiece.

That to give legislative countenance in such case would be to encourage gullibility and credulity; to advocate the cause of quackery in the case of medical science; to set at nought all those rules of plain common sense, which in other matters usually govern mankind.

## ART. II.—CASE OF FUNGUS HÆMATODES.

BY DAVID HUTCHISON, M. D.

Pleasant View, Shelby county, Ia., May 7th, 1840.

Dear Sir,—Being a subscriber, and a constant reader of your valuable periodical, I take the liberty of sending you the following case: should you deem it worthy of a place in the *Intelligencer*, you will confer a favour, by inserting, with it, your opinion, whether it was or was not fungus hæma-

todes, and if not, what it was? As I can find nothing of a precisely similar nature described in any of the books.

Yours respectfully,

DAVID HUTCHISON.

Robley Dunglison, M. D.

W. H. ætat. 48, of the scrofulous diathesis, consulted me about two years ago, respecting a tumour situated on the left side of the thorax at the junction of the third and fourth ribs with their cartilages. He stated that he had always enjoyed a reasonable share of good health, and that he first discovered the commencement of the tumour nearly six years previously, and according to his own description, a portion of the skin, about the size of a twelve and a half cent piece, became of a purple florid colour, without either pain or soreness, and continued in this state two years, when he perceived the part enlarging gradually, so that in the space of two years more, it attained the size of a hickory nut. It was hard to the touch, without pain or soreness, the skin covering it was of a purple colour. He solicited me to remove it with the scalpel, which I accordingly did, and healed the wound by the first intention. The tumour when removed appeared to be very vascular, and when pressed between the fingers, there exuded a fatty substance. His health remained good, but in a few months the tumour was reproduced, precisely in the same place and of the same appearance. He now submitted to the advice of a female empiric, and had it removed by caustics. In a few months it was again reproduced in the same place, and continued to enlarge, until January, 1840. His general health having become very much impaired, he called me to visit him January 4th. He had a sallow cadaveric appearance; pulse rather quick, but compressible, tongue moist, but a yellowish coat on the dorsum, pain and stiffness in the loins. The tumour was somewhat larger than a hickory nut, the skin over it was of a dark purple colour, hard to the touch, no soreness, and little fibrous branches could be felt diverging from it under the adjacent skin, and below the axilla of the left side, in a space the size of a man's hand; there were thirteen tumours (of the same appearance) varying from the size of a garden bean, to that of a hickory nut. In the axilla of the same side, there was a tumour the size of a hen's egg, and there bulged out from the surface of it a soft spongy substance about the size of a marble; immediately under this tumour, one of the axillary glands was enlarged to the size of a walnut, which produced pressure on the axillary vessels, and caused tumefaction of the extremity of the affected side, and the whole left side of the thorax was in patches of a florid, purple colour, and under the discoloured spots tumours could be felt varying from the size of small shot to that of garden peas, also some small tumours had appeared on the shoulder and arm of the affected side, and the whole of the side was somewhat œdematous.

I prescribed hydrag. mass. 6 grs. every other evening, to correct the hepatic secretion. Frictions with the vol. linim. to the loins, as there was no tenderness over any of the spinous processes, and the tumours to be brushed over with tinct. iodini of the usual strength night and morning, and gave him twenty drops of tinct. iodini twice a day.

I visited him once a week to watch the effects of the iodine on the tumours; they appeared to subside very considerably for a time, but his health was declining so rapidly, that interference with the local disease appeared unnecessary; emaciation proceeded rapidly, respiration was performed entirely by the right lobes of the lungs, and his appetite had almost gone, so that tonics and stimulants appeared to be all that was necessary to sustain the animal powers as long as possible. He continued to sink gradually, and died on the 28th February, being comatose 36 hours before death. There exuded from the tumour in the axilla a sanious fluid of an offensive fetor a few days before his death.

The bowels were easily regulated during the whole of his confinement, and the various secretions were but slightly deranged.

Post mortem examination not permitted.

If I have given a sufficiently accurate history of the case for you to form an opinion of the disease, I should like to see it in your next number.

Yours, &c.

DAVID HUTCHISON, M. D.

To Dr. Dunglison.

### ART. III.—CASES ILLUSTRATING THE EFFICACY OF DIVIDING THE INTERNAL RECTUS MUSCLE, FOR THE CURE OF SQUINTING.

BY P. BENNETT LUCAS, ESQ.<sup>1</sup>

CASE I.—April 7, 1840.—Catherine Culbert, aged 60, has had strabismus from the time she was three years old. The right eye is turned deeply towards the inner canthus, so that the outer segment of the circumference of the cornea looks forward. There are two specks of long standing on the cornea.

When the left eye is covered the turned-in one slightly alters its direction, and by an effort the patient can direct it outwards in a sufficient degree to bring into view the entire of the cornea, and a very small portion of the conjunctiva, between it and the inner canthus. She cannot, however, retain the eye longer in this position than a few seconds.

Notwithstanding the very unfavourable condition of the eye of this patient for an operation, the difficulties which offered themselves in reaching the muscle at fault for the purpose of its division, and after its division the question which naturally presented itself, whether an eye for fifty-seven years thus deformed would resume the normal condition it had enjoyed but for three years, I proceeded to the operation, assisted by Dr. Hingeston and Mr. Wardrop, jun. A bandage was placed over the sound eye, so as to exclude the light. The upper eyelid was secured with a speculum, and the lower was depressed with the fingers. By these means the globe of the eye was also sufficiently fixed. Desiring the patient to direct her eye as much outwards as possible, I grasped the small portion of conjunctiva at the inner canthus, which was brought into view, with the square forceps, and divided this membrane from below upwards by means of a small knife, to the extent of about five lines. A partial chemosis almost immediately took place, from the effusion of blood and tears beneath the lips of the incision, which gave them a swollen appearance, and which more or less interfered with the future steps of the operation. I next inserted a double hook into the sclerotic coat, and found so much difficulty in everting the globe of the eye in a sufficient degree to expose the insertion of the internal rectus muscle, that, at the suggestion of Dr. Hingeston, I bent a small common probe (about four lines of the instrument) at an acute angle, and introducing it into the incision of the conjunctiva, I readily passed it underneath the muscle, and fitting it close between its insertion and the sclerotic coat, it was drawn with much ease towards the incision of the conjunctiva, and divided with a bent scissors. This manœuvre with the bent probe answered the purpose of bringing the muscle and globe of the eye so completely under my command that I determined, in the next case which presented itself, to adopt a similar proceeding.

The result of this case was unsatisfactory; it is now the 23rd of April, and no decided improvement has been effected in the strabismus. It is a case, however, which is highly instructive, and fraught with the most satis-

<sup>1</sup> London Lancet, May 2, 1840, p. 188.

factory inferences in regard to the safety of the operation, and the new method of performing it. The woman was aged 60, and had the deformity fifty-seven years; under the most favourable circumstances she could but turn the eye slightly outwards, and it was therefore hardly to be expected that the operation would have been attended with the same happy effects which have followed the other cases in which I have operated.

This case proves the safety with which the operation can be performed under circumstances the most unfavourable; the globe of the eye was not only turned deeply inwards, but from the emaciation of the orbital contents, in common with the other parts of the body, it was also very much sunken, which rendered the operation difficult, notwithstanding I readily reached the muscle with the bent probe. It will be interesting to follow this case, with the view of ascertaining if the muscles, which have now been fifty-seven years accustomed to particular actions, may not eventually bring the eye to its proper position, the inner rectus muscle having been divided.

To this date (April 23) the patient has not complained of a single bad symptom, the healing process having gone on most satisfactorily.

CASE II.—April 21, 1840.—Mr. Crossland, aged 21, was born with his eyes straight. At Montreal, when five years of age, he was watching the return of his father from business at a time when a large quantity of snow was on the ground, the glare of light from which he observed to be very offensive, and was instantly seized with strabismus convergens of the left eye. He was quite unconscious of any deformity having occurred, until his friends remarked it to him. He was subjected to various kinds of medical treatment, and wore goggles. The summer following his eye got straight; but when the winter returned, it again became inverted, and has remained so to this date.

*Present appearance.*—The eye is turned deeply into the inner canthus. When the right eye is covered the patient can turn the affected eye half way outwards; but when both eyes are exposed, it instantaneously resumes its abnormal condition.

Mr. C. has been subject to headaches, reads a great deal, and for the last two years has been living on vegetable diet, for the cure of a cutaneous affection.

In the presence, and with the assistance, of Dr. Carroll, Mr. Toogood Downing, Mr. Wardrop, jun., and Mr. H. Downing, I performed the following operation:—A bandage was applied to the sound eye, to exclude the light, and the patient was seated on a low-backed chair before the window, and his head reclining against Mr. Doering's chest, who also supported the upper eyelid, by means of the wire speculum. Mr. Wardrop, jun., depressed the lower lid. The patient, who possessed great moral strength, everted the turned-in eye to his utmost, and with the greatest facility I introduced a small, fine-pointed hook into the inner conjunctiva, about three lines distance from the cornea, and with a very fine, straight knife I divided this membrane from below upwards, to the extent of half an inch, leaving the hook still attached to the inner segment of the incision. I next separated the divided inner portion of the conjunctiva from the subjacent sclerotic coat by means of a blunt probe, and having introduced between the lips of the incision the bent probe, I parted it underneath the tendon of the internal rectus muscle. The hook was now withdrawn, and the operation was suspended for a moment. I next raised the tendon by means of the bent probe towards the incision of the conjunctiva, so as completely to bring it into view, and with a curved scissors divided it. The eye immediately resumed its natural position. The hemorrhage did not amount to as much as two drops, and the operation was completed in a minute and a half.

Calomel, 2 grs; James's powder, 3 grs. A saline draught in the morning.

22d. The inner conjunctiva is slightly ecchymosed; the eye is perfectly straight. Mr. Crossland had a good night.



24th. Ecchymosis of conjunctiva is disappearing. The state of the patient is most satisfactory.

26th. The patient is in every respect going on well; he suffers no pain in the eye; the inner conjunctiva is still reddened, and a layer of lymph exists in the site of the incision; the redness evidently exists for the purpose of reparation, which is going on beautifully, as the patient was not aware of its existence until he saw it by means of a glass. He goes to business to-morrow.

CASE III.—April 27th.—William James Egan, aged 10, was born with his eyes perfectly straight. When he was two years of age he suffered from convulsions, and after a more severe one than usual the strabismus took place.

*Present state.*—His left eye is turned deeply inwards, with a slight degree of obliquity upwards; its sight is not so powerful as that of the right; there is a slight degree of opacity of the inner circumference of the cornea, and the organ is more sunken than its fellow. With much exertion the patient can evert the eye to the extent of about four lines.

With the assistance of Mr. Downing, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Earles, and Mr. Snow, I performed this operation as follows:—The eyelids were held apart simply by means of the fingers; I seized the inner conjunctiva with a small sharp hook, and divided this membrane from below upwards, with a fine narrow-bladed knife. At the instant of doing this the eye forcibly turned more inwards, which retarded the operation a few moments: keeping the hook still fixed in the inner segment of the divided conjunctiva, I allowed the lids to cover the globe, and a few drops of blood were wiped away by means of a sponge and cold water. Exposing the eye again by simply elevating the upper, and depressing the inner lids with the fingers of two assistants, I readily exposed the incision of the conjunctiva, and having separated the connecting reticular tissue by a blunt probe, as in the other cases; I introduced the blunt hook, and with much facility passed it from below upwards, beneath the inner rectus muscle, and drawing it forwards, I divided its tendon with a curved scissors.

The tendon of the muscle was unusually thick and strong, far different from the appearance which it presented in the other cases; it *grated* beneath the blades of the scissors upon dividing it, which, being accomplished, the eye became instantaneously straight.

The whole operation only occupied two minutes.

In this case the speculum was dispensed with, and the only instruments used were a hook, a knife, a probe, and a scissors.

After the operation a cold bread and water poultice was applied to the eye, a powder, consisting of James's powder and calomel, was given, and the boy was put to bed.

This little patient evinced great strength. I explained to him beforehand the object of the operation, and saw he could assist us by everting his eye as much as possible, and which he did at the time it was most needed.

*Remarks.*—Were the operation of dividing the muscles of the human eye for the cure of strabismus, attended with danger to the organ of vision, with consequences of even a much less serious nature, the propriety of its performance might justly be regarded as questionable. But when it is considered that no bad consequences have followed this interesting operation—that the patient suffers but little during its performance—and that, in the cases to which it is applicable, the most gratifying success has attended it; its extensive application to the removal of strabismus cannot be too forcibly insisted upon.

As will be observed, on the perusal of the foregoing cases, and of those which have appeared in the *Lancet* of April 18th, the operation for the cure of strabismus which I have now successfully employed in five cases, differs in many, and I would say essential, particulars from that adopted by Professor Dieffenbach—indeed, when I first attentively considered the detail of

the three cases as reported in the "British and Foreign Medical Review," I was struck with the number of hooks which were employed, and the necessity arising therefrom, for many assistants, who, in all operations, but especially in operations upon the eye, too often interfere with each other, and with the operator.

In Professor Dieffenbach's operation, no less than four hooks are employed, and one of these a double one; two for the purpose of keeping the eyelids apart, a third is passed into the conjunctiva, and the fourth, the double one, is fixed into the sclerotica. In none of the cases, with the exception of Catherine Cuthbert's, did I use more than one hook; and in the case of the child, Mary Anne Daly, I used none, having divided the conjunctiva with a knife and forceps. This latter instrument I have since found is not, for many reasons, to be depended upon as much as the hook; it gives more uneasiness to the patient, and is apt to lose its hold of the conjunctiva, which the hook never does until it is intentionally removed.

In deciding upon the best method of performing this operation, many circumstances must be taken into account in regard to the age of the patient; his moral courage; any cause which may disturb the relation of the orbit and its contents, so as to produce a too prominent eye or a too sunken one, as well as the degree of intensity of the strabismus.

In children it requires the greatest exertion to control their struggles. In the child Daly it was as much as two persons could do to steady her trunk and legs, the movements of which retarded the operation materially. On the contrary, in the case of Mr. Crossland, the great firmness he displayed, and the assistance he afforded me by everting his eye to the utmost, at the time I was passing the hook beneath the inner rectus muscle, rendered the operation almost bloodless, and enabled me to complete it in a minute and a half.

I have omitted to mention that I was indebted to the kindness of Mr. F. Kiernan, for the opportunity of operating on the boy Egan.

I have this moment seen the child, Mary Anne Daly; her eyes are perfectly straight, and a slight cicatrix is visible in the site of the operation.

---

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

### *Stearns's Philosophy of Mind.*<sup>1</sup>

The author is evidently an anxious inquirer after truth, and spareth no pains in the investigation. The topic, however, is one of intricacy, and requires a further examination than we can give to enable our readers to comprehend it. The whole subject indeed of metaphysics is presumed to be so obscure, that the word "metaphysical" is often employed synonymously with "incomprehensible;"—nor do we think the reader will be disposed to have a much clearer light after having perused the pamphlet before us. He must judge, however, for himself.

The fundamental principles of Dr. Stearns's Theory are professed to be the following:—

"I. Man consists of three entities, BODY, SOUL and MIND.

II. The ideas of sensation are those carnal ideas which constitute the

<sup>1</sup> Philosophy of Mind, developing new sources of Ideas, designating their distinctive classes, and simplifying the Faculties and Operations of the whole mind. By John Stearns, M. D., of the city of New York, late President of the Medical Society of the State. 8vo. pp. 25. New York, 1840.

animal propensities, and which we derive, in common with other animals, from the five senses.

III. The intellectual, and moral, and religious ideas, which some philosophers ascribe to reflection, and to innate principles, are derived entirely and exclusively from the soul. In the soul is held the high court of chancery, denominated conscience, or the moral sense.

IV. When the soul operates upon the brain, it produces what may be denominated a *moral mind*, endowed with intellectual and religious faculties: and until excited to action by this operation, the faculties of the brain remain perfectly dormant.

V. When the senses operate upon the brain, they produce what may be denominated *sensual mind*, which man possesses in common with the inferior animals, but which is essentially changed and improved by the accession of the soul to the body." p. 9.

---

#### Mütter on the Salt Sulphur Springs.<sup>1</sup>

We have frequently drawn attention to Dr. Mütter's successful labours as a skilful surgeon. The pamphlet before us exhibits him in a new sphere—the salt sulphur springs is the subject, and we fear that the very fact of having chosen such a topic has led him, in spite of himself, to too favourable a bias in regard to their virtues, which may hardly bear the test of observation in all cases. If an author commences with a disposition to eulogize—and no one takes up such a subject with a view to disparage—he is apt to be led away in spite of himself far beyond the sober limits within which he ought to be restricted. We have already given, more than once, our opinion of mineral waters in general, and have expressed the belief, that in the large mass of cases to obtain plenary benefit, they must be drunk at the source. Nor has the pamphlet of Dr. Mütter dispelled this belief. We doubt not, that the water in question is energetic in its action on the frame; but in the multitude of nervous and other diseases for which it is advised by Dr. Mütter, we must look to the curative agency of travelling air and exercise, change of society, scenery, social habits, rather than to the water itself. To one, however, who is about to visit the springs in question, we can recommend the pamphlet of Dr. Mütter, as containing much information of great interest to him.

---

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES.

*Dr. Gross.—Louisville Institute.*—This gentleman has been recently appointed Professor of Surgery in the Louisville Medical Institute, on the resignation of Dr. Flint. The appointment we are sure is a judicious one. Dr. Gross has distinguished himself as an enthusiastic promoter of his profession more for its own sake than as a mere means of subsistence, and his recent work on pathological anatomy has exhibited with what success he has prosecuted a difficult and important branch. To that work we have already referred on two occasions; and we have esteemed this a more ad-

<sup>1</sup> The Salt Sulphur Springs, Monroe county, Va. By Thomas D. Mütter, M. D., Lecturer on Surgery, Corresponding Member of the New York Medical Society, Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, Member of the Pathological Society of Philadelphia, &c. &c. 8vo. pp. 32. Philadelphia, 1840.

visible plan than giving a lengthened notice of it, which neither our limits nor the nature of the work itself would permit. It is indeed impossible in the compass of a couple of pages to give any extract, which can do more than exhibit the entire inadequacy of the attempt to do justice to a work of two large 8vo. volumes. Yet although our limits restricted us to a brief notice, our opinion of the work was strongly and decidedly expressed, and a farther examination of it confirms those favourable sentiments.

We are not in the custom of speaking in the language of hyperbole, but we can recommend it as strongly to our readers as any work which has fallen under our critical notice for years.

*Annual Report of the Pennsylvania Hospital.*—The following is the abstract of cases treated in this valuable charity during the year ending April 25, 1840.

Abstract of the Cases of 1155 Patients treated in the Pennsylvania Hospital during the official year ending 4th month 25th, 1840.								
ADMITTED FOR	Cured.	Relieved.	Removed by friends, or at their request.	Discharged for mis- conduct.	Eloped.	Died.	Remain.	Total.
ACCIDENTAL INJURIES, VIZ.								
Burns, . . . . .	7	4	0	0	0	8	3	22
Contusions and wounds, . .	108	12	10	1	0	7	5	143
Dislocations, . . . . .	9	0	1	0	0	0	2	12
Fractures, . . . . .	60	9	3	0	0	12	16	100
"    Un-united, . . . . .	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Frosted, . . . . .	5	3	0	0	0	0	1	9
Gunshot Wounds, . . . . .	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	5
Poisoned, . . . . .	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sprains, . . . . .	7	1	1	0	0	0	2	11
DISEASES OF THE CHEST AND RES- PIRATORY ORGANS.								
Asthma, . . . . .	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bronchitis, . . . . .	4	1	1	0	0	2	1	9
Catarrh, . . . . .	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Hæmoptysis, . . . . .	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Laryngitis, . . . . .	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
Phthisis pulmonalis, . . . .	0	1	2	0	0	7	0	10
Pleurisy, . . . . .	5	1	0	0	0	2	0	8
Pleuropneumonia, . . . . .	4	1	0	0	0	0	1	6
Pneumonia, . . . . .	8	0	1	0	0	3	2	14
Diseased heart, . . . . .	2	1	1	0	0	2	1	7
DISEASES OF ABDOMINAL VISCERA.								
Cholera, . . . . .	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Colic, . . . . .	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Constipation, . . . . .	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Diarrhoea, . . . . .	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	8
Dysentery, . . . . .	9	1	0	0	0	1	0	11
Dyspepsia, . . . . .	4	2	0	0	0	0	2	8
Diseased Spleen, . . . . .	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2



ADMITTED FOR	Cured.	Relieved,	Removed by friends, or at their request.	Discharged for mis- conduct.	Eloped.	Died.	Remain.	Total.
Fistula, . . . . .	1	1	1	1	0	0	5	9
Gastritis, . . . . .	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	7
Hernia, . . . . .	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
" Strangulated, . . . . .	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Hæmorrhoids, . . . . .	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hepatitis, . . . . .	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	6
DISEASES OF GENERATIVE AND URINARY ORGANS.								
Diseased Uterus and Vagina, . . . . .	0	7	3	0	0	0	3	13
" Bladder and Urethra, . . . . .	3	7	0	0	0	0	1	11
" Testes and Penis, . . . . .	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	9
Irregular Catamenia, . . . . .	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	6
Nephritis, . . . . .	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Stone in Bladder, . . . . .	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Syphilis, . . . . .	48	11	5	0	1	0	7	72
Gonorrhœa, . . . . .	5	0	1	0	0	0	3	6
Bubo, . . . . .	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
DISEASES OF BONES, &c.								
Caries and Necrosis, . . . . .	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	6
Diseased Joints, . . . . .	1	2	1	0	0	1	2	7
" Spine, . . . . .	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Periostitis, . . . . .	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
DISEASES OF THE SKIN.								
Erysipelas, . . . . .	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	4
Eruptions, . . . . .	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Psoriasis, . . . . .	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
Tinea Capitis, . . . . .	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM, &c.								
Cephalalgia, . . . . .	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Congestion of the Brain, . . . . .	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	4
Convulsions, . . . . .	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Chorea, . . . . .	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Paralysis, . . . . .	1	1	6	0	0	1	5	14
Spinal Irritations, . . . . .	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	3
DISEASES OF THE SANGUINEOUS SYSTEM.								
Aneurism, . . . . .	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Apoplexy, . . . . .	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Hæmorrhage, . . . . .	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
Inflammations, . . . . .	12	2	0	0	0	0	0	14
Icterus, . . . . .	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
FEVER.								
" Bilious, . . . . .	25	0	0	0	0	7	1	33
" Intermittent, . . . . .	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
" Remittent, . . . . .	39	1	0	0	0	0	2	42
" Typhoid, . . . . .	20	0	0	0	0	1	0	21
" Typhoid, . . . . .	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Small Pox, . . . . .	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

ADMITTED FOR	Cured.	Relieved.	Removed by friends, or by their request.	Discharged for mis- conduct.	Eloped.	Died.	Remain.	Total.
<b>MISCELLANEOUS CASES.</b>								
Abscess, . . . . .	3	1	0	0	0	0	3	7
Cancer, . . . . .	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
Clavus, . . . . .	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Chlorosis, . . . . .	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Debility, . . . . .	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Diseased Eyes, . . . . .	8	4	2	0	1	0	2	17
Dropsy, . . . . .	3	2	0	0	0	2	3	10
Furunculus, . . . . .	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Fungus, . . . . .	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Gout, . . . . .	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rheumatism, . . . . .	38	9	0	0	0	0	13	60
Paronychia, . . . . .	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Tumour, . . . . .	6	2	2	0	1	1	1	13
Ulcer, . . . . .	22	3	4	0	0	0	4	33
Polypus, . . . . .	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Worms, . . . . .	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Insanity, . . . . .	20	12	23	0	0	4	102	161
Mania a Potu, . . . . .	18	0	1	0	0	2	0	21
	590	128	77	2	3	76	207	1083
<b>LYING IN WARD.</b>								
	safely delivered.	removed healthy.						
Pregnant Women, . . . . .	30	0	1	0	0	1	6	38
Infants born, . . . . .	0	24	0	0	0	7	3	34
			78	2	3	84	216	1155

*Vermont Academy of Medicine.*—The number of students in attendance during the last session, according to catalogue, was 57.

*Ptyalism from the medicinal use of Arsenic.*—By George Jones, St. Leonard's-on-Sea, April 28, 1840.<sup>1</sup>—In consequence of a paper by Mr. Hunt, reported at p. 77, vol. 2, of the Medical Gazette, I have occasionally prescribed arsenic in cases of mœnorrhagia, and with manifest advantage. The following very decided cure from its use was attended with symptoms which I have no recollection to have seen recorded as resulting from the medicinal use of this mineral, and may, therefore, not be uninteresting to your readers.

Mrs. L., æt. 46, stout in person, and of a florid complexion, says, that "for several months she has not been free from the menstrual evacuation, and that now she is almost drained by it."

℞. Liq. Arsenic, ʒiij.; Sp. Lav. C. ʒi. M. Capt. gtt. viij. ter quotidie ex aqua.

The case was nearly lost sight of for a month, during which she had con-

<sup>1</sup> Lond. Med. Gaz., May 8, 1840, p. 266.

tinued to take the drops: at the end of that time, she applied to me on account of what, on a cursory view, led me to imagine was the effect of mercury—extreme fetor of breath, superficial ulceration of the gums and fauces generally, with increased salivary secretion. She then made the following statement:—After the drops had been taken, with little or no inconvenience, for a fortnight, the menorrhagia gradually subsided into an offensive discharge of a muco-purulent character, which has now left her altogether; at the same time the secretion of saliva increased, and her mouth became slightly affected. Not suspecting that the soreness could be referable to the medicine, she continued its use as long as it lasted. Her mouth continuing to get worse, she then made application for further advice. In about a week or ten days she became convalescent, under the following treatment.

- ℞ Magnes. sulph. ℥i.; acid. sulph. D. ℥i.; aquæ, ℥vj. M. partitis vicibus. sumend. donec respond alvus.
- ℞ Sol. sodæ chlor. ℥i. aquæ, ℥xi.; M. ft. lotio pro ore sæpe utend.
- ℞ Argent. nitrat. gr. iss. acid. nitrici, gtt. v. aquæ distill. ℥ij. M. Capt. coch. parvum, ex aqua 4tis horis.

*Venereal Affections of Nose.*—By Alex. J. Hannay, M. D., Surgeon to the Lock Hospital and the Royal Infirmary.<sup>1</sup>—I have derived much benefit in six cases of obstinate ulceration of the nose, and neighbouring parts, from the daily application of two, three, or four leeches to the gum on the upper jaw. All of these cases had assumed the inveteracy, obstinacy, and other characters, of that destructive process to which the name of lupus has been given. I had derived so much benefit in cases of venereal inflammation and its consequences from this practice, that I was induced to try it in the cases mentioned; and though they had resisted every method I had ever heard of for months, they yielded to the practice mentioned. The first applications brought relief from pain, reduced the redness and livor of surrounding parts, a gradual amelioration ensued, and, in the worst case, the cure was accomplished in forty-eight days, 140 leeches having been applied.

I can, therefore, with great confidence, recommend the above practice in cases of venereal affections either of the soft parts or of the bones of the nose, and, as far as six successful cases authorize me, I would advise the same in cases of lupus.

Of course, none of the measures calculated to improve the general health, or local applications likely to do good, are interfered with, and these should be diligently administered. I have been informed of one case of failure of the remedy proposed; but, before I can attach weight to it, I should wish to be quite sure that it was steadily pursued without a single day's interruption. Sincerely do I hope others may derive that benefit from the measure which has fallen to my lot.

*Translation of Bouillaud on the Heart.*—We learn that a translation of Bouillaud's valuable work on the heart is in preparation by Dr. Dubarry of the Navy.

*University of Maryland.*—Sixty-five students attended the lectures during the last session. The degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on 14. We learn that our friend Professor N. R. Smith is engaged to deliver a course of lectures on surgery at this institution, before he proceeds to fulfil his engagement at the Transylvania Medical School. The session of the University of Maryland will therefore open in September; and during Dr.

<sup>1</sup> Lond. Med. Gaz., May 8, 1840, p. 276.

Smith's absence an additional course of lectures on surgery will be delivered by Dr. W. N. Baker.

*Washington University of Baltimore.*—The degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on twenty gentlemen at the last commencement of this institution.

*M. Ricord.*<sup>1</sup>—M. Ricord, whose labours in the investigation of the venereal disease are so well known to our readers, has been passing a few days in London, which he has devoted to visiting the hospitals and other medical institutions.

*Sir C. Bell.*<sup>1</sup>—Sir Charles Bell is in London, on his way to Rome. It has been said that he intends to vacate his Professorial chair in Edinburgh, the University not affording him the position and advantages which were anticipated on his retreat to that city. He has, however, long been anxious to visit Italy, where John Bell, after his residence in Edinburgh, spent some time in study.

[In a more recent number, Sir Charles has contradicted the rumour in regard to his dissatisfaction with his present position.—Ed.]

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

*From the Author.*—The Salt Sulphur Springs, Monroe county, Va. By Thomas D. Mütter, M. D., Lecturer on Surgery, &c. 8vo. pp. 32. Philadelphia, 1840. (See Bibliographical Notices.)

*From the Author.*—Rhinoplastic Operations with some remarks on the autoplasmic methods usually adopted for the restoration of parts lost by accident or disease. By J. Mason Warren, M. D., (Republished from the "Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.") 8vo. pp. 28. Boston, 1840.

*From the Author.*—An Introductory Lecture to a course on the principles and practice of surgery, delivered in the Vermont Academy of Medicine, March 12, 1840. By James Bryan, M. D., Professor of Surgery in the above Institution, Member of the Philadelphia Medical Society, &c. &c. 8vo. pp. 12. Rutland, 1840.

*From Professor Bryan.*—Catalogue of the Trustees, Faculty, and Students of the Vermont Academy of Medicine, for the Session of March, 1840. 12mo. pp. 12. Rutland, 1840.

<sup>1</sup> London Lancet, May 2, 1840, p. 206.

<sup>2</sup> London Lancet, May 2, 1840, p. 208.